

Message Text

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: NATO, PFOR, PO

SUBJECT: PORTUGUESE REPRESENTATION AT DECEMBER

-- MINISTERIALS

REF: A) USNATO 6200 DTG 141540Z NOV 75 (NOTAL)

-- B) LISBON 6808 DTG 172346Z NOV 75(NOTAL)

1. WE CONTINUE TO VIEW RESTRICTIONS ON PORTUGUESE ACCESS TO NATO MEETINGS AS DELICATE QUESTION. DECEMBER MINISTERIAL MEETINGS IN PARTICULAR WILL HAVE HIGH VISIBILITY AND POTENTIAL FOR DAMAGING THE MODERATE CAUSE IN PORTUGAL IF NATO HANDLING OF THEM FEEDS SPECULATION THAT PORTUGAL IS A SECOND-CLASS ALLY.

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2. WE ARE PROCEEDING ON THE ASSUMPTION THAT MORAIS DA SILVA

(REF B) AND ANTUNES WILL BE PORTUGUESE REPRESENTATIVES RESPECTIVELY TO DPC/CHIEFS OF STAFF AND FOREIGN MINISTERS MEETINGS, WHICH MEANS THAT MODERATE ELEMENTS WILL HEAR THESE DELEGATIONS. WE CANNOT OF COURSE EXCLUDE THE POSSIBILITY THAT PORTUGUESE DELEGATIONS WILL CONTAIN MEMBERS WHO MAY BE LESS DESIRABLE FROM ALLIED POINT OF VIEW, ALTHOUGH MORAIS AND ANTUNES WOULD HAVE AN INTEREST IN KEEPING THEIR DELEGATIONS MODERATE. ON BALANCE, WE DO NOT BELIEVE US SHOULD SEEK TO INITIATE, THROUGH LUNS OR OTHER

MEANS, AN EFFORT TO TELL LISBON TO STRUCTURE ITS DELEGATIONS ALONG MODERATE LINES. WE ARE ALSO UNCERTAIN WHETHER PORTUGUESE PERMREP DE FREITAS CRUZ WOULD IN FACT EFFECTIVELY CONVEY SUCH A MESSAGE TO LISBON.

3. IF LUNS OR OTHER ALLIES WISH TO PASS SUCH A MESSAGE THROUGH DE FREITAS, MISSION SHOULD INDICATE THAT, ON ASSUMPTION HEADS OF DELEGATIONS WILL BE KNOWN MODERATES, WE WOULD PREFER TO LET PORTUGUESE HANDLE THIS PROBLEM THEMSELVES.

4. WE SHALL CONTINUE TO MONITOR THE MAKE-UP OF THE PORTUGUESE DELEGATION AND COULD ADJUST OUR APPROACH SHOULD OBJECTIONABLE INDIVIDUALS BE NOMINATED.

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